NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association Phone: (306) 242-3060 Fax: (306) 242-2205 Unit 3 – 701 45th Street East Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0W4 www.nsbasask.com



February 17, 2023

Andy Gibbons, VP of External Affairs, WestJet WestJet Airlines Ottawa Office Address 119 Allanford Avenue Ottawa, ON, K1T 3Y5

Dear Mr. Gibbons;

Re: Direct Flights Between Saskatoon and Minneapolis

The NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association is a member-driven organization that serves, promotes, and protects businesses throughout Saskatoon and beyond. As an independent, autonomous, and outspoken organization representing many business owners and large multinational corporations in Saskatoon, we would like to thank you and your team at WestJet for expanding your service by adding direct flights to Minneapolis, which will ultimately increase both leisure and business opportunities for many people and businesses within Saskatchewan.

The relationship between the United States and Saskatchewan is highly significant to our city and province's economy, given that our neighbouring country is our largest trading partner. Because of this, direct access to cities within the United States is a crucial component to the Saskatoon and Saskatchewan business community.

That being said, the additional direct flight from a major U.S. city such as Minneapolis to Saskatoon will provide opportunities and create ease for business people of Saskatchewan, connecting them with their U.S. partners and making it more accessible and desirable for U.S. based businesses to partner and invest with our city and province.

As forecasted by several economic, including the Conference Board of Canada, Saskatoon and Saskatchewan are on the verge of experiencing a tremendous economic boom in the coming years. We are confident that the addition of this flight route is a big step in the right direction in allowing Saskatchewan businesses to thrive, and we look forward to the possibility of WestJet continuing to be a part of this success as we encourage you to continue to consider more new flight routes that will keep our growing province connected.

The NSBA appreciates WestJet's commitment to our city and province, and we look forward to boarding with you directly to Minneapolis come mid-June.

Sincerely,

Keith Moen

Executive Director

Cc: Diederik Pen, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer Stephen Maybury, CEO SKYXE, Saskatoon Airport Authority